

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1. (Original) A method of locking conduit data and an analyzer program that analyzes the conduit data, the method including:
generating a first key;
associating the first key with both specific conduit data and a specific copy of the analyzer program; and
generating a gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, prevents the specific copy of the analyzer program from analyzing conduit data other than the specific conduit data.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the first key includes generating a random character sequence.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the random character sequence is a random number sequence.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein associating the first key with the specific conduit data includes generating a second key utilizing the first key and a characteristic value for a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 including, responsive to a modification of the characteristic value, re-generating the second key utilizing the modified characteristic value.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 including incorporating the second key within a header of a data file including the specific conduit data.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein associating the first key with the specific copy of the analyzer program includes compiling the specific copy of the analyzer program to incorporate the first key.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the gatekeeper logic includes associating the gatekeeper logic with the specific copy of the analyzer program.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein associating the gatekeeper logic with the specific copy of the analyzer program includes compiling the specific copy of the analyzer program to incorporate the gatekeeper logic.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the gatekeeper logic comprises generating a Java-programming language application that is incorporated within the specific copy of the analyzer program.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a user of the analyzer program supplies the specific conduit data to a supplier of the analyzer program, and a locking of the specific conduit data to the specific copy of the analyzer program occurs on a computer system of the supplier.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the supplier provides the locked specific conduit data and the specific copy of the analyzer program to the user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein a supplier of the analyzer program supplies locking logic and the analyzer program to a user of the analyzer program, and a locking of the

- specific conduit data to the specific copy of the analyzer program occurs on a computer system of the user utilizing the supplied locking logic and the supplied analyzer program.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the conduit data includes logged pipeline data collected from a pipeline.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pipeline is a gas pipeline.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pipeline is an oil pipeline.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pipeline is a sewer pipeline.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the pipeline is a utility pipeline.

19. (Original) A method of executing an analyzer program to analyze conduit data to which it is locked, the method including:

determining a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
determining a second key associated with specific conduit data;
determining a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;

deriving a gate key utilizing the second key and the characteristic parameter; and
allowing execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the first key.

20. (Original) A method of executing an analyzer program to analyze conduit data to which it is locked, the method including:

determining a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;

- determining a second key associated with specific conduit data;
determining a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;
deriving a gate key utilizing the first key and the characteristic parameter; and
allowing execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the second key.
21. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing conduit data and an analyzer program that analyzes the conduit data, the method including:
providing a user of the analyzer program with a specific copy of the analyzer program and specific conduit data that are locked utilizing at least a first key; and
providing the user of the analyzer program with a gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, allows the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze only the specific conduit data, wherein the first key is associated with both the specific copy of analyzer program and the specific conduit data.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein providing the gatekeeper logic includes compiling the specific copy of the analyzer program to include the gatekeeper logic, and providing the user with the compiled specific copy of the analyzer program.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein associating the first key with the specific copy of the analyzer program includes compiling the specific copy of the analyzer program to include the first key.
25. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein associating the first key with the specific

conduit data includes determining a characteristic value for a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data, generating a second key utilizing the first key and the characteristic value, and including the second key within the specific conduit data.

26. (Original) A method of distributing conduit data and an analyzer program that analyzes the conduit data, the method including:

providing a user of the analyzer program with a specific copy of the analyzer program;
providing the user of the analyzer program with a locking logic that locks the specific copy of the analyzer program to selected conduit data; and
providing the user of the analyzer program with a gatekeeper logic that allows the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze only the selected conduit data.

27. (Original) A method of distributing conduit data and an application program that accesses the conduit data, the method including:

locking a specific copy of the application program to specific conduit data so that the specific copy of the application program is able to access only the specific conduit data; and
distributing the locked specific copy of the application program and specific conduit data to a user.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein locking the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data includes generating a first key that is associated with both the specific copy of the application program and the specific conduit data.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein generating the first key comprises generating a random key utilizing a random character generator.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein generating the first key comprises generating a random number using a random number generator.

31. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein locking the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data includes generating a second key that is associated with the specific conduit data, the second key generated utilizing the first key and a first characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data.

32. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein locking the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data includes generating a gatekeeper application that allows utilization of the specific copy of the application program when accessing the specific conduit data, and disallows utilization of the application program when accessing other conduit data.

33. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein locking the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data includes compiling source code for the application program, together with the first key and the gatekeeper application, into compiled object code for the specific copy of the application program.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32 including distributing the gatekeeper application to the user, the gatekeeper application accessing at least the first key for the purposes of allowing or disallowing utilization of the specific copy of the application program.

35. (Original) The method of 34 wherein the gatekeeper determines a second characteristic parameter representative of the characteristic of the specific conduit data, generates a gate key utilizing the first key and the second characteristic parameter, and compares the gate key to the second key for the purposes of allowing or disallowing user utilization of the specific copy of the

- application program.

36. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein locking is performed by a locking logic, and the method includes sending the specific conduit data from the user to a software supplier, the software supplier executing the locking logic to lock the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data so that the specific copy of the application program is able to access only the specific conduit data.

37. (Original) The method of claim 27 including sending the locked specific copy of the application program and specific conduit data from the user to the software supplier.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein sending comprises propagating the specific conduit data over a communications network.

39. (Original) The method of claim 37 wherein sending comprises supplying the software supplier with a physical storage medium that stores the specific conduit data.

40. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein locking is performed by a locking logic, the method includes sending the locking logic and the application program from a software supplier to the user, the user executing the locking logic to lock the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data so that the specific copy of the application program is able to access only the specific conduit data.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40 including purging the locking logic from a computer system of the user subsequent to the locking of the specific copy of the application program to the specific conduit data.

42. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein sending comprises propagating the locking logic and the application program over a communications network.
43. (Original) The method of claim 40 wherein sending comprises supplying the user with a physical storage medium that stores the locking logic and the application program.
44. (Original) The method of claim 27, wherein the conduit data includes logged pipeline data collected from a pipeline.
45. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the pipeline is a gas pipeline.
46. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the pipeline is an oil pipeline.
47. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the pipeline is a sewer pipeline.
48. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the pipeline is a bore hole.
49. (Original) The method of claim 44, wherein the pipeline is a drill hole.
50. (Original) A logic set for locking conduit data and an analyzer program that analyzes the conduit data, the apparatus including:
first logic to generate a first key;
second logic to associate the first key with both specific conduit data and a specific copy of the analyzer program; and
third logic to generate gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, prevents the specific copy of the analyzer program from analyzing conduit data other than the specific conduit data.

51. (Original) The logic set of claim 50 wherein the third logic generates a second key utilizing the first key and a characteristic value representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data, and associates the second key with the specific conduit data.
52. (Original) The logic set of claim 50 wherein the first logic comprises a random number generator.
53. (Original) The logic set of claim 50 wherein the second logic comprises a compiler that compiles the specific copy of the analyzer program to incorporate the gatekeeper logic.
54. (Original) The logic set of claim 50 wherein the second logic comprises a compiler that compiles the specific copy of the analyzer program to incorporate the first key.
55. (Original) The logic set of claim 50 wherein the third logic comprises a locking routine.
56. (Original) An apparatus for locking conduit data and an analyzer program that analyzes the conduit data, the apparatus including:
first means for generating a first key;
second means for associating the first key with both specific conduit data and a specific copy of the analyzer program; and
third means for generating gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, prevents the specific copy of the analyzer program from analyzing conduit data other than the specific conduit data.
57. (Original) A logic set for executing an analyzer program to analyze conduit data to which it is locked, the apparatus including:

- first logic to identify a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
- second logic to identify a second key associated with specific conduit data;
- third logic to determine a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;
- fourth logic to derive a gate key utilizing the second key and the characteristic parameter;
- and
- fifth logic to allow executing of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the first key.

58. (Currently Amended) A logic set for executing an analyzer program to analyze conduit data to which it is locked, the ~~method~~ apparatus including:

- first logic to identify a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
- second logic to identify a second key associated with specific conduit data;
- third logic to determine a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;
- fourth logic to derive a gate key utilizing the first key and the characteristic parameter;
- and
- fifth logic to allow execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the second key.

59. (Original) An apparatus for executing an analyzer program to analyze conduit data to which it is locked, the apparatus including:

- first means for identifying a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
- second means for identifying a second key associated with specific conduit data;
- third means for determining a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;

- fourth means for deriving a gate key utilizing the second key and the characteristic parameter; and
- fifth means for allowing execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the first key.

60. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing an analyzer program to analyze conduit data to which it is locked, ~~the method~~ apparatus including:

- first means for identifying a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
- second means for identifying a second key associated with specific conduit data;
- third means for determining a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;
- fourth means for deriving a gate key utilizing the first key and the characteristic parameter; and
- fifth means for allowing execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the second key.

61. (Original) A machine-readable medium having a sequence of instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the steps of:

- generating a first key;
- associating the first key with both specific conduit data and a specific copy of an analyzer program; and
- generating gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, prevents the specific copy of the analyzer program from analyzing conduit data other than the specific conduit data.

62. (Original) A machine-readable medium having a sequence of instructions stored thereon

that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the steps of:

- determining a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
- determining a second key associated with specific conduit data;
- determining a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;
- deriving a gate key utilizing the second key and the characteristic parameter; and
- allowing execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the first key.

63. (Original) A machine-readable medium having a sequence of instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the steps of:

- determining a first key associated with a specific copy of an analyzer program;
- determining a second key associated with specific conduit data;
- determining a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the specific conduit data;
- deriving a gate key utilizing the second key and the characteristic parameter; and
- allowing execution of the specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze the specific conduit data if the gate key corresponds to the second key.

64. (Original) A machine-readable medium having a sequence of instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine, in response to a user request received over a communications network, to perform the steps of:

- automatically providing, over the communications network, a user of the analyzer program with a specific copy of the analyzer program and specific conduit data that are locked utilizing at least a first key; and
- automatically providing, over the communications network, the user of the analyzer program with gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, allows the

specific copy of the analyzer program to analyze only the specific conduit data,
wherein the first key is associated with both the specific copy of analyzer program
and the specific conduit data.

65. (Original) A machine-readable medium having a sequence of instructions stored thereon that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine, in response to a user request received over a communications network, to perform the steps of:

automatically locking a specific copy of an application program to specific conduit data
so that the specific copy of the application program application program is able to
access only the specific conduit data; and
automatically distributing the locked specific copy of the application program and
specific conduit data to a user.

66. (Original) A method of locking a data and a program that processes the data, comprising:

generating a first key;
associating the first key with the data and a copy of the program; and
generating a gatekeeper logic that, utilizing at least the first key, prevents the copy of the
program from processing data other than the data associated with the first key.

67. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein generating the first key includes generating a random character sequence.

68. (Original) The method of claim 67 wherein the random character sequence is a random number sequence.

69. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein associating the first key with the data

includes generating a second key utilizing the first key and a characteristic value for a characteristic parameter representative of a characteristic of the data.

70. (Original) The method of claim 69 including, responsive to a modification of the characteristic value, re-generating the second key utilizing the modified characteristic value.

71. (Original) The method of claim 69 including incorporating the second key within a header of a data file including the data.

72. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein associating the first key with the specific copy of the program includes compiling the copy of the program to incorporate the first key.

73. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein generating the gatekeeper logic includes associating the gatekeeper logic with the copy of the program.

74. (Original) The method of claim 73 wherein associating the gatekeeper logic with the copy of the program includes compiling the copy of the program to incorporate the gatekeeper logic.

75. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein generating the gatekeeper logic comprises generating a Java-programming language application that is incorporated within the copy of the program.

76. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein a supplier of the program performs locking of the data to the copy of the program, the data provided to the supplier by a user.

77. (Original) The method of claim 76 wherein the supplier provides the copy of the

- program and the data locked to the copy of the program to the user.

78. (Original) The method of claim 66 wherein a supplier of the program supplies a locking logic and the copy of the program to a user, and a locking of the data to the copy of the program occurs on a computer system of the user utilizing the supplied locking logic and the supplied program.